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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 29th and 31st meetings, on 15 and 28 November 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 31).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.5 and A/C.2/67/L.41

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/67/L.5), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.

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on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008 and 65/155 of 20 December 2010,

"*Taking into account also* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

"*Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity as an important instrument in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas within national jurisdiction,

"*Recalling also* biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

"*Recognizing also* that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

"*Noting* that the Caribbean Sea, when compared to all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

"*Recalling* the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such in accordance with international law;

"2. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

"3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to significantly enhance financial and technical support to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

"4. *Also welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to significantly enhance its support to the Commission, including through the provision of new, additional and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

"5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

"6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to enhance assistance to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

"7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the

present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

"8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

"9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region, which entered into force in May 2011, under the provisions of annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto;

"10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

"11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, within its scope of application, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

"12. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue and enhance their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

"13. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

"14. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

"15. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

"16. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the

Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

"17. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

"18. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/67/L.41), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41 (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Turkey (see A/C.2/67/SR.31).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.7 and A/C.2/67/L.42

8. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Year of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.7), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the

Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

"*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010, General Assembly resolutions 65/156 of 20 December 2010 and 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its other previous resolutions on the subject,

"*Recalling also* the outcome document entitled 'The future we want' of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, in which the Conference recognized the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

"*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

"1. *Decides* to declare 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States;

"2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to organize and coordinate activities to be undertaken during the Year;

"3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other stakeholders to take advantage of the Year to promote actions at all levels, including through international, regional and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, aimed at the achievement of sustainable development of small island developing States;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

9. At its 31st meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International Year of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.42), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42 had no programme budget implications.

11. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42 (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

12. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Nauru (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) and the European Union (see A/C.2/67/SR.31).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.19 and A/C.2/67/L.40

14. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy), and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

"*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its previous resolutions on the subject,

"*Welcoming* the outcome document on sustainable development entitled 'The future we want' of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the outcome document, including the call for the convening of a third international conference on small island developing States in 2014, and the invitation to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to determine the modalities of the conference,

"*Reaffirming* that the Commission on Sustainable Development is currently the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, while recognizing that the institutional framework for sustainable development, of which it is a central component, is currently the subject of review,

"*Reaffirming also* that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters,

"*Noting with concern* that the outcome of the Mauritius Strategy review concluded that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability,

"*Recognizing* that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and for many represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including for some through the loss of territory,

"*Recognizing also* the need to promote the development of regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction, including through early warning systems, as well as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by natural disasters, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

"*Reiterating* the concern that in spite of the progress achieved by small island developing States in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment, the overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven,

"*Taking note* of the Leaders' Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of small island developing States, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

"1. *Notes* the reports of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States and on the concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"3. *Decides* to convene, in 2014, the third international conference on small island developing States as called for in the outcome document entitled 'The future we want', which will include a high-level segment to build on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and also in the relevant chapter of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding small island developing States, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States;

"4. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Samoa to host the third international conference on small island developing States in 2014;

"5. *Decides* that the international conference on small island developing States should:

"(a) Seek a renewed political commitment by the international community to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through the mobilization of new, additional and predictable resources and assistance from developed countries and other partners for small island developing States;

"(b) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy;

"(c) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and the means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;

"(d) Identify important priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States to be integrated into the post-2015 global development agenda;

"6. *Notes* the efforts to implement the Barbados Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through the provision of adequate financial and technical support;

"7. *Urges* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and calls for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States in achieving sustainable development;

"8. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its twentieth session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the third international conference on small island developing States and to ensure a smooth transition to the high-level political forum;

"9. *Decides* to convene, in 2013, national and regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea regions, the Caribbean region and the Pacific region, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States to identify and develop inputs for the above-mentioned international conference that is specific to small island developing States;

"10. *Calls on* the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the

international conference in 2014 on small island developing States at the national, regional and international levels;

"11. *Decides* to convene, towards the end of 2013 and/or early in 2014, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which will hold no more than four five-day preparatory meetings, and to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date of the third international conference on small island developing States and the duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings during its sixty-eighth session;

"12. *Agrees* that the third international conference on small island developing States will be convened at the highest level for the adoption of the outcome document of the conference;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the regional, interregional preparatory meetings and the preparatory conferences for the third international conference on small island developing States in the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2013 and 2014;

"14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to guarantee the convening of the third international conference on small island developing States and preparatory meetings and the effective participation of developing countries, in particular delegations from small island developing States;

"15. *Decides* that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, applied to all Member States and other participants, as was the practice in the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, will be applied to the regional and interregional meetings and the preparatory meetings for the third international conference on small island developing States;

"16. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and the major groups identified in Agenda 21, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the established practices of the Commission, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and in the preparations for the third international conference on small island developing States;

"17. *Calls for* the participation of associate members of regional commissions, in the preparatory process therefore, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States, held in 1994 and 2005;

"18. *Calls on* the Secretary-General, in consultation with small island developing States, to appoint a Secretary-General for the third international conference at the earliest possible time;

"19. *Urges* international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the third international conference on small island developing States through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the conference, and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, including the coverage of economy class air tickets, daily subsistence and terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the conference itself;

"20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

15. At its 31st meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.40), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19.

16. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40.

17. Also at the 31st meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "Government of Samoa" by the words "Government of the Independent State of Samoa".

18. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, as orally corrected (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

19. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

20. At its 31st meeting, on 28 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/67/313) (see para. 22).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,[2] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[5] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[7]

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008 and 65/155 of 20 December 2010,

Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[9]

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias,

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] See *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution S-22/2, annex.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] Resolution 60/1.

Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[10] and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[11] which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity[12] and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora[13] and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,[14]

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[15]

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

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[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[11] Ibid., vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[12] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[13] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

[14] Ibid., vol. 996, No. 14583.

[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Also welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, which entered into force in May 2011;

10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[16]

11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular in fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

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[16] *International Fisheries Instruments with Index* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.

12. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

14. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

16. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

17. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

18. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

19. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing

States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

Draft resolution II
International Year of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] chapter 17 of Agenda 21[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6] including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] General Assembly resolutions 65/156 of 20 December 2010 and 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its other previous resolutions on the subject,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012, and recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

1. *Decides* to declare 2014 the International Year of Small Island Developing States;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant organizations within the United Nations system, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] See resolution 65/2.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

the Year, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution above and beyond activities currently within their mandates should be met through voluntary contributions;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other stakeholders to take advantage of the Year to promote actions at all levels, including through international, regional and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, aimed at the achievement of sustainable development of small island developing States;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, in his annual report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, on the implementation of the present resolution, and inter alia, to elaborate in that report on the evaluation of the Year, including its financial aspects.

Draft resolution III
Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[6] held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its previous resolutions on the subject,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States and the invitation to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to determine the modalities of the conference,

Recalling that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, while recognizing that the institutional framework for sustainable development is currently evolving,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution 65/2.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

frequent and intense natural disasters, noting with concern that the outcome of the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy concluded that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings, or have even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability, and that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, and remaining concerned that, while small island developing States have made progress in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment, their overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven,

Recognizing the need to promote the development of regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction, including by strengthening risk assessments and early warning systems, as well as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by natural disasters, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[8]

Taking note of the Leaders' Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States[10] and concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[11]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and underlines the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and achieving sustainable development;

3. *Also reaffirms* the decision to convene in 2014, building on the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and chapter VII of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding small island developing States, the third international conference on small island developing States as called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to

[8] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[9] A/65/115.

[10] A/66/218.

[11] A/66/278.

address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States;

4. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa to host the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014;

5. *Decides* that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;

(b) Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

(c) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;

(d) Identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

6. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

7. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and for a strengthening of United Nations system support to small island developing States, in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States in achieving sustainable development;

8. *Stresses* the importance of continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

9. *Decides* to convene in 2013 a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States,[12] as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

10. *Also decides* that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document;

[12] Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea; Caribbean; and Pacific.

11. *Further decides* that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to launch, at the end of 2013, the work of the intergovernmental preparatory process with respect to considering the governance structure as well as other organizational matters related to the work of the preparatory committee, and to convene the first meeting of the preparatory committee early in 2014;

13. *Decides* to consider further at its sixty-eighth session, before the end of 2013, the modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

14. *Agrees* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

16. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences;

17. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21[13] to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee;

18. *Calls for* the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994 and 2005;

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[13] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible date;

20. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

21. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

22. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations".[1]

[1] A/67/313.